

Message from the President

LGNSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM provides an update on local government issues.

Flying-Foxes Grants Program – Final Funding Round Stream 3

LGNSW will open a third and final round of funding on 1 May 2017 under its Flying Foxes Grants Program.

Council Roadside Reserves Grants – New Closing Date

The closing date has been extended (to 9 May) for grant applications under the new \$1.46 Council Roadside Reserves Project.

NAIDOC Week Host City Opportunities - Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are sought from organisations who would like to be a National NAIDOC Week Host City in 2018 or 2019.

Employment Law Seminar 2017 – Limited Seats Remaining

LGNSW's Employment Law Seminar (28 April, Sydney) is designed specifically for local government and is a must-attend event for general managers, industrial relations and human resource professionals.

LGNSW Annual Good Governance Forum

LGNSW's Good Governance in Action forum (Sydney, 28-29 June) will focus on the 'who, what and how' of strengthening governance practices.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 7 April 2017



I'll start this week with some welcome news about the financial controller regulation the Government made at the end of last year, before the change of Minister. LGNSW raised its deep concerns about this regulation on multiple occasions, in numerous meetings and letters to the Ministers for Local Government in December 2016 and February 2017 because:

- it is bad policy - the criteria in the regulation are subjective, lack transparency and leave the Minister open to perceptions of politically-motivated decision-making and/or to responsibility for the decisions of financial controllers;
- it is unclear how the financial controller provisions will work in practice; and
- the regulation was imposed without any consultation with the sector, despite the whole idea of criteria having been the compromise position reached when the financial controller provisions were included in the 2016 Act amendments.

It is our strong view that, in order to form the view that the appointment of a financial controller may be necessary, the Minister should have to consider a set of specific, meaningful and objective criteria that look towards a council's financial competency and the strength of its culture of compliance.

The last date to lodge a motion to have the regulation disallowed (set aside) was yesterday, but we've always much preferred to work with the Government towards a better regulation. We've been doing a whole lot of constructive advocacy to this end, and now we've achieved a result! I've written to Minister Upton today to commend her, because while the regulation remains policy at present and change requires her approval, the Office of Local Government (OLG) will enter into discussions about our alternative criteria - and the Minister has given an undertaking to the Hon Paul Green MLC that the regulation can be reviewed towards the end of the year. Paul is a great supporter of local government, and has our gratitude for his help on this issue.

In other news, LGNSW finalised three major planning submissions recently.

The first relates to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) which has been under review for many years. While we welcome some of the proposed changes, we are concerned about the potential erosion of both plan- and decision-making at the local government level. Our submission went in last Friday - it details 23 recommendations and is available for review on our [website](#).

The second LGNSW submission of last Friday is on the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) draft district plans, specifically focussing on overarching matters for local government (across all districts). Our submission was enriched by inputs from members, including our workshop with representatives from 21 councils earlier this year. LGNSW supports the (near-term) affordable rental housing targets, land value capture and protection of employment lands. [Our submission](#) contains 28 detailed recommendations and urges the GSC to collaborate with the sector on a number of points, including the ambitious long-term 20-year housing targets which have raised considerable concern for councils.

The [third submission](#), relates to the Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). The proposed changes to approval pathways for child care facilities appear to benefit local government, especially as they will better align national, state and local planning requirements. Regarding the education component of the SEPP, we are firmly of the view that changes to fast track the approval of schools lean too far in favour of the applicant and will unreasonably remove councils and communities from decision making.

Earlier in the week, LGNSW Chief Executive, Donna Rygate and I had a very constructive meeting with Melinda Pavey MP, NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, where we put your case for more road and bridge funding, maintenance contracts and the like. We also had a good meeting yesterday with Vicki Scott, ALGWA NSW Branch President about gender equity and workplace health and wellbeing.

Donna met this week OLG, with UTS and the Department of Family and Community Services about our inclusive tourism project, participated in the Container Deposit Scheme Ministerial Advisory Council, contributed to a mayoral mentor induction, and caught up with the chief executive of the Heart Foundation which presents an important award at the upcoming Local Government Week event. On Wednesday, she was in Maitland to lead the second 'Status Pending to Superior Performance' workshop for members that had been facing forced amalgamation. The final in this workshop series will be held in Shellharbour next week.

Also on Wednesday, I attended the NSW Rural Fire Service Local Government Liaison Committee meeting, and senior staff met with Treasury, the Office of State Revenue and OLG on the Fire and Emergency Service Levy.

We welcomed the announcement of new local government grants for the Community Housing Improvement Fund, round 2 of the Innovation Fund, National Science Week Events and the LGNSW Flying Fox Grants (round 3). Also note that the deadline for the LGNSW Council Roadside Reserves Grants has been extended to 3 May.

On a final and important note, disaster assistance for six flood affected communities in northern NSW has been jointly announced by the Australian and NSW Governments. Assistance is now available to Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed councils.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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LGNSW's Employment Law Seminar (28 April, Sydney) is designed specifically for local government and is a must-attend event for general managers, industrial relations and human resource professionals.

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View upcoming conference and events relevant to Local Government

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General Interest

Item 3: National Science Week 2017 - \$25,000 Grant for Greater Sydney Event

Expressions of interest are sought from organisations wanting to hold National Science Week events (12-20 August) in the Greater Sydney region.

The NSW Inspiring Australia and National Science Week Executive Committee are offering up to \$25,000 to a major organisation that can present a large scale, public event for people of all ages, in the greater Sydney region.

Funding can be used to pay sole contractors, performers and presenters, to cover production, publicity and marketing expenses. Applicants will be required to submit a full budget that sets out proposed expenditure.

Eligibility

Inspiring Australia wishes to create more free events that are large scale, family-friendly and inviting to people who don't ordinarily participate in National Science Week. For this reason, applications are limited to established presenters with potential to attract at least 5,000 people and adequate facilities to cater to large audiences.

In order to qualify, applicants must therefore be able to provide parking for at least 2,000 cars, demonstrate easy access to public transport and have adequate toilets and other amenities including food and beverage services and security.

Applications are especially welcome from sporting facilities, local government and popular entertainment venues that have proven experience in delivering large scale public events. Applications from Western Sydney and outlying suburbs will be highly regarded.

How to express your interest

Organisations that meet the above selection criteria and wish to express interest in applying for this grant allocation should contact the Inspiring Australia Manager by email to request an application form.

Dates

Applications close Thursday 20 April

Online information

[Grants Page](#)

Contact

Applications
inspiring.nsw@sydney.edu.au

Jackie Randles
The University of Sydney
P: 9351 5198
E: jackie.randles@sydney.edu.au

Ref: R90/1258

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Annual Good Governance Forum

LGNSW's Good Governance in Action forum (Sydney, 28-29 June) will focus on the 'who, what and how' of strengthening governance practices.

This forum will help participants ensure their governance practices are of the highest possible standard, especially in light of recent changes to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Speakers include John McMillan, the NSW Ombudsman and Margaret Crawford, the NSW Auditor-General,

Forum content includes:

- Critical issues and lessons drawn from interstate and overseas
- Case studies of successful efforts to improve the quality of governance
- The implications of the digital revolution and how technologies can advance good governance
- Implementation of last year's amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*
- Specific areas of change and improvement, including roles, responsibilities and ethics; financial management; audit; and community engagement
- Action planning for councils and Local Government NSW.

This event is essential for councilors, mayors, senior managers and key stakeholders concerned with promoting the highest standards of governance across NSW local government.

See LGNSW's website for [more information and to register](#).

Dates and Location

28 and 29 June 2017
Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney
11 Jamison Street Sydney

Further information and registrations

[LGNSW Good Governance Forum](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$990 incl. GST
Non-members: \$1,980 incl. GST

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
(02) 9242 4181
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 5: Fit for the Future Innovation Fund – \$2 Million Round Two Grants Open

Round two of the Fit for the Future Innovation Fund has been launched by the NSW Government making \$2 million available for small councils in regional NSW.

The Innovation Fund is part of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future Reform Program and provides assistance to small regional NSW councils to overcome some of the challenges faced in sustaining their communities and maintaining local services.

Councils in regional NSW with populations of less than 10,000 are eligible to apply. There is also an opportunity for councils with populations larger than 10,000 to partner with smaller councils.

One-off grants (up to \$150,000 for individual projects and up to \$400,000 for projects involving more than one council) are available.

Last year the government awarded grant funds to 13 innovative projects, to the value of \$2 million.

Applications are to be submitted by completing the online application form, available through the [Fit for the Future secure council portal](#).

Dates and location

Applications close 9 Friday June

Online information

[Fit for the Future Innovation Fund](#)

Contact

Your Councils Office of Local Government Relationship Manager

Or email

OneStopShop@fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au

or call OLG on 02 4428 4100

Ref: R12/0041 ER

Community

Item 6: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Survey of Local Government

The Office of Environment and Heritage is seeking input from local councils on Aboriginal cultural heritage management.

The NSW Government is implementing new stand-alone Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation that respects and protects Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. The legislation will address current and future generations and provide clear and consistent processes for economic and social development.

As part of this process, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is seeking information about the role of local councils in Aboriginal cultural heritage management. OEH has prepared a [short survey](#) to gather information about local council activities related to Aboriginal cultural heritage management and seeks the participation of local council staff.

Background

The NSW Government is currently revising the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage reform model following public feedback in 2013. The revised model will form the basis of draft legislation currently being prepared for release in a fourth phase of public consultation in 2017. The above OEH survey will feed into this process.

For further information on Aboriginal cultural heritage reform, see the [Office of Environment and Heritage website](#).

Dates and location

Online survey, closing 28 April 2017

[Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management survey](#)

Online information

[Aboriginal cultural heritage](#)

Contact

Scott Hickie, Principal Policy Officer
Office of Environment and Heritage

T: +61 2 9995 6906

E: scott.hickie@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0001 MK

Community

Item 7: Social Housing Community Improvement Fund – Applications Open

Applications are now open to local councils and community organisations for the NSW Government's \$8 million Social Housing Community Improvement Fund.

Local councils and community organisations are encouraged to apply. The fund aims to enhance or create facilities that would benefit nearby social housing developments.

One-off grants of between \$2,000 and \$50,000 will be provided for projects that integrate social housing with the broader community.

The program will fund assets and facilities that not only help those living in social housing, but can also be used by the broader community.

Dates and location

Applications close 10 May 2017

Online information

[Social Housing Community Improvement Fund](#)

Contact

Social Housing Community Improvement Fund team

1800 379 184

SHCIF@facns.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0115 MK

Community

Item 8: Lift & Change Facilities - Checklist for Councils

LGNSW has developed a checklist for lift and change facilities, with funding support from NSW Family and Community Services.

The NSW Government understands regular accessible toilets are unsuitable for some people with significant disability and their carers who instead require adult-sized change tables and hoists.

Lift and change facilities are larger than standard accessible facilities, have extra features, greater space to manoeuvre and meet the needs of people with disability and their carers.

The new checklist is designed to assist NSW Government organisations and local councils in the development of these facilities by providing information and dimensions of all required features, from concept to completion.

It also lists features of changing places toilets as detailed in the Changing Places Information Kit, and the requirements of the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards (2010), particularly Australian Standard AS1428.1 (2009) - mandatory for all new building works.

Background

The main features of a lift and change facility are: a fold-down, height-adjustable change table; a ceiling hoist on an X-Y tracking system; a peninsular toilet; and, where appropriate, a shower. The facilities are designed to provide ample circulation space for the manoeuvrability of a wheelchair or power chair and up to two carers.

In locations where facilities need to remain locked to prevent misuse, a locking system such as the Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) is required to gain entry.

The provision of a lift and change facility also requires participating authorities to provide a nearby accessible toilet that complies with Australian Standard AS1428.1 (2009), and which can remain open to people with disability in need of a standard accessible toilet and for those who do not possess a MLAK.

Online information

[LGNSW's liveability page](#)

LGNSW Contact

Margaret Kay

Margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au

9242 4082

Ref: R96/0126 MK

Community

Item 9: NAIDOC Week Host City Opportunities - Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are sought from organisations who would like to be a National NAIDOC Week Host City in 2018 or 2019.

The National NAIDOC Committee has extended an invitation, to local NAIDOC Committees and other suitable organisations, to apply.

Successful expressions of interests will form a merit list which the Committee will use for 2018 and 2019 Host City arrangements. Successful Host City bids are announced each year at the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony during NAIDOC Week (2-9 July).

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is also a time to acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, scholars, sportspeople, elders and community members.

Dates

NAIDOC Host City EOI
closes 10 April

Contact

Naidocgrants@pmc.gov.au

PM&C Regional Network
1800 079 098

Ref: R90/0001 MK

Emergency Management

Item 10: Disaster Assistance for Flood-Affected Communities

Disaster assistance for six flood affected communities in northern NSW, has been announced by the Australian and NSW governments.

Assistance is now available to Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed councils.

The joint-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements include:

- Help for people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
- Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning and restoring damaged essential public assets
- Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations
- Freight subsidies for primary producers
- Grants for not-for-profit organisations.

Visit the [Australian Government Disaster Assist](#) and [Emergency NSW](#) websites for further information.

Further Information

[Australian Government Disaster Assist](#)
[Emergency NSW](#)

Ref: R90/0753 RC

Environment

Item 11: Flying-Foxes Grants Program – Final Funding Round Stream 3

LGNSW will open a third and final round of funding on 1 May 2017 under its Flying Foxes Grants Program.

The program is administered by LGNSW and funded by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

This third round of funding provides grants to help local government organisation implement actions in their flying fox camp management plans.

The program comprises three streams. This funding is under stream 3. Applications close on 26 May. Applications under streams 1 and 2 close on Sunday 30 April 2017.

Stream 1 - Implementing emergency flying-fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts.

- Maximum grant:\$50,000

Stream 2 - Preparing flying-fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant:\$15,000

Stream 3 – Implementing approved actions in flying-fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant:\$50,000

Grants are available to NSW local government organisations including councils, county councils and regional organisations of councils. Collaboration with other partners is encouraged, particularly where multiple flying-fox camps are involved or camps are across tenures.

Proposals require matching funds or in-kind contributions on a one-to-one basis. Proposals with higher matching cash contributions may be more competitive in the assessment process.

For further information regarding the streams, eligibility criteria and to apply, see the [Flying-fox grants program page on LGNSW's website](#).

Online information

[Flying Foxes Grant Program](#)

Contact

Susy Cenedese
Strategy Manager
LGNSW
02 9242 4080
susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au

Rod Hardwick
Project Officer
LGNSW
0439 098 172
rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0011 RH

Environment

Item 12: Managing Rapidly Decomposed or Dehydrated Food Waste

The Environment Protection Authority has published an important new fact sheet about the regulatory requirements for rapidly decomposed or dehydrated food waste and the implications for councils.

Disposal of rapidly decomposed or dehydrated food waste is considered as 'waste' under Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997*, unless allowed under EPA Resource Recovery Orders and Exemptions. Currently only three machine types have been granted exemptions (as set out in the [fact sheet](#)).

If this type of waste is applied to land without meeting the required conditions, it may be considered to be operating as a landfill and may require an environment protection licence.

The fact sheet is relevant for councils (from a regulatory perspective), those who generate or accept this type of food waste, and anyone operating or considering a food waste unit.

Contact

NSW EPA Waste Exemptions team
waste.exemptions@epa.nsw.gov.au

Online information

[Fact Sheet: Rapidly decomposed or dehydrated food waste and the EPA resource recovery framework](#)

Ref: R15/0002 LD

Environment

Item 13: Council Roadside Reserves Grants – New Closing Date

The closing date has been extended (to 9 May) for grant applications under the new \$1.46 Council Roadside Reserves Project.

The three-year project, managed by LGNSW with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, aims to build the capacity of councils to embed the values of natural assets in roadside reserves, into their integrated planning and reporting systems. See factsheet [Council Roadside Reserves, Environmental Grants](#).

LGNSW has developed a [Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework \(CREMF\)](#) to assist councils streamline roadside environmental management.

Grant opportunity

Grants are now available for councils to be part of a state-wide pilot program to trial the framework concepts to improve the management and long-term environmental value of their roadside reserve assets.

Councils can apply for up to \$50,000. Newly amalgamated councils can apply for up to \$80,000 (in recognition of larger areas and the need to integrate systems).

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for projects involving two or more councils.

Refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) and submit an application [online](#).

Revised Timeframes

Following feedback from the information sessions, the closing date for the Council Roadside Reserves grants has been extended to **Tuesday 9 May 2017**.

For those who were unable to attend an information session, Ecological Australia's presentation outlining the Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework (CREMF) is provided on the [Council Roadside Reserves Project](#) section of LGNSW's website. LGNSW's presentation is also available [here](#).

Website information

For full details of the framework, grants process and information sessions, see the [Council Roadside Reserves Project section](#) of LGNSW's website.

Online information

[Council Roadside Reserves Project Guidelines for Applicants](#)

[Apply online](#)

Applications due **9 May 2017**

Contact

Kathy Godfrey
Policy Officer – CRR Project
Kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au

Ph 9242 4053

R16/0004 KG

Environment

Item 14: New Research on Kerbside Dumping

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has published social research findings about illegal kerbside dumping.

Dumping of household waste on the kerb is the most common type of illegal dumping in NSW and a management burden for many councils.

The new research findings provide:

- an insight into what motivates people to dump waste on the kerb
- strategies to change this behaviour
- help for councils in developing programs to deal with illegal dumping.

To establish a baseline in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around kerbside dumping across the community, the research was conducted with residents, councils, real estate agents and strata managers.

The research is available for download from the [EPA website](#).

Online information
[Illegal dumping research](#)

Contact
NSW EPA Illegal Dumping Team
illegaldumping.strategy@epa.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R15/0002 LD

Planning

Item 15: LGNSW Submission on Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policies

LGNSW has made a major submission on a proposed new Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) released the draft Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) in February 2017. The draft SEPP propose to expand the exempt, complying and development-without-consent provisions for schools, TAFEs, universities and child care centres.

While the intention is to restrict these provisions to the simpler applications, LGNSW has concerns about the scope of development that will be able to be approved as 'complying', especially in relation to schools.

LGNSW is of the view that the changes to fast track the approval of schools leans too far in favour of the applicant and will unreasonably remove councils and communities from the decision making process.

The draft SEPP and subsidiary material will replace most local planning controls, including Local Environmental Plans (LEP) and Development Control Plans (DCP) provisions. Critical issues of concern to both users and residents include traffic, parking, road safety, noise and privacy.

In contrast, LGNSW is less concerned with the proposed changes to the approval pathways for child care facilities under the draft SEPP. Councils will retain consent powers for centre-based child care. LGNSW also supports the key purpose of the draft SEPP, which is to better align the national, state and local planning requirements for child care facilities. However, further discussion is needed on the content of the draft Child Care Planning Guideline which will support the SEPP.

LGNSW has recommended further consultation with the sector on both the education and child care components of the SEPP to resolve the detailed matters of concern raised in our submission.

Online information

[Draft education and child care SEPP](#)

[LGNSW submissions](#)

LGNSW Contact

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jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R15/0028 JP

Planning

Item 16: LGNSW Submission on Draft Planning Legislation

LGNSW has made a major submission on the NSW Government's proposed changes to NSW planning legislation.

The LGNSW submission contains 23 recommendations along with detailed comments on specific provisions in the draft Bill.

Five overall themes are emphasised in the submission:

- Removal of councillors from determining DAs – not supported
- Strengthening local strategic planning – supported
- Community participation practice – supported
- Expansion of complying development – strongly opposed
- Focus on better planning outcomes is needed

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) has been under active review for many years. The draft EP&A Amendment Bill is based broadly on earlier Planning Bills of 2013, which generated considerable debate inside and outside of NSW Parliament.

Background

This is the first opportunity for LGNSW and councils to provide a formal written response to the NSW Government's latest attempt to reform NSW planning legislation. LGNSW has also been advocating local government positions to the Planning Minister and Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) over a long period.

LGNSW advocacy has had some positive outcomes, such as the removal of the proposal to mandate Local Planning Panels. LGNSW will continue to work with the NSW Government to ensure the interests of the sector are understood and taken into account as proposed changes are refined and supporting regulations developed. While there is a level of general agreement on what the problems are, there is less agreement on how to resolve them. While welcoming some changes that will improve plan making practice to some degree, LGNSW is concerned that local plan-making and decision making are being eroded.

LGNSW online information
[LGNSW submission](#)

[Department of Planning and Environment's webpage](#)

LGNSW Media release: [New Laws Exclude Communities](#)

LGNSW Contacts

Jennifer Dennis, Senior Policy Officer
jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au

[Jane Partridge](#), Senior Policy Officer
jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R96/0115 JP

Planning

Item 17: LGNSW Submission to Greater Sydney Commission on Draft District Plans for Sydney

LGNSW has made a major submission on the draft district plans for the six districts in the Greater Sydney Region.

The district plans have a 20-year planning horizon and sit in the middle of the hierarchy of metropolitan, district and local planning for the Sydney region.

The LGNSW submission comments on overarching local government matters across all districts (and not individual draft district plans).

In preparing its submission, LGNSW sought members input through consultations and a workshop attended by representatives from 21 Sydney councils.

A major deficit of past metropolitan plans has been the failure to integrate growth planning with infrastructure provision. The integration of these two components is a key aspect of the draft district plans which is firmly welcomed.

LGNSW also supports the affordable (near-term) rental housing targets, land value capture and protection of employment lands, all of which are much-needed policy directions and introduced for the first time in the draft district plans.

The ambitious longer term 20 year housing targets foreshadowed in the district plans raise considerable concern for councils, and LGNSW has recommended the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) collaborates with councils in developing targets for their local areas.

Of the 28 recommendations in LGNSW's submission, the key recommendations are:

- To clarify implementation, roles and responsibilities, especially for state agencies and commissioners at the GSC
- The next steps for finalising the district plans and how local government will be involved in implementation
- Better aligning the delivery actions with the stated priorities of the draft plans
- Further development of key policy areas, such as value uplift, protecting employment lands and affordable rental housing targets and
- Coordination, commitment and funding infrastructure delivery to support the growth targets in the plans.

Background

The GSC released the draft district plans in November 2016, along with an overarching document called [Towards our Greater Sydney 2056](#). The latter document updates the 2014 metropolitan-wide plan ([A Plan for Growing Sydney](#)) by introducing the concept of Sydney as 'three-cities'.

This is the first opportunity for local government to formally comment on the GSC's proposed changes to the metropolitan-wide plan. LGNSW has urged the GSC to consult with local government early in the consultation program planned during 2017 for the revised version of [A Plan for Growing Sydney](#).

Online Information

[LGNSW's submission](#)

[Greater Sydney Commission](#)

[Towards our Greater Sydney 2056](#)

[Draft District Plans](#)

[LGNSW web page](#)

Ref: R90/0028 JP

Procurement

Item 18: Procurement Qualifications

Local Government Procurement is offering accredited procurement qualifications courses for staff involved in purchasing, tendering and contract management functions.

Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in May

This program is suitable for staff who have completed Certificate IV or have prior learning. Develop skills to conduct significant procurement. Understand the value of implementing policy, managing contract performance and monitor compliance within legislation. Coordinate risk management activities and manage contract risk

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

- Block 1: 29-31 May 2017
- Block 2: 21-23 June 2017
- Block 3: 26-27 July 2017
- Block 4: 14-16 August 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

Advanced Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in July

Think strategically, develop a comprehensive understanding of strategic procurement and contract management, including legislative requirements, governance and internal controls.

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

- Block 1: 19-21 July 2017
- Block 2: 28-30 August 2017
- Block 3: 12-14 September 2017
- Block 4: 10-12 October 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

Certificate IV in Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in August

This practical course program covers the nuts and bolts of the tendering process. Identifying and understanding the need for gaining approvals, developing procurement plans, related legislation and key documents such as specification requirements, the Request for Tender and the Tender Evaluation Plan.

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

- Block 1: 8-10 August 2017
- Block 2: 23-25 August 2017
- Block 3: 18-19 September 2017
- Block 4: 16-18 October 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

All LGP training can be conducted in-house at a location of your choice. For further information view the [LGP website](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

Online information

[LGP Training website](#)

Registrations

[LGP Training Calendar](#)

Contact

LGP Training
02 8270 8709
training@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057 MB

Procurement

Item 19: Procurement Training

Local Government Procurement is offering a series of training courses in Sydney CBD for council staff.

Advanced Contract Management

Sydney CBD – Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 May 2017

This two-day course, designed to advance skills in contract management, is suitable for people managing or planning to manage high-risk, complex contracts. A large portion of value is extracted (or lost) post contract award. Through advanced contract management, you can manage risk, increase innovation, reduce waste and increase efficiency. [More information.](#) [Register online.](#)

Evaluation, Supplier Selection and Contract Establishment

Sydney CBD – Wednesday 24 May 2017

This one-day course supports supplier selection and evaluation techniques aligned to probity and value for money. Learn key tips on setting up evaluation criteria for the quotation and tender stage to ensure the right supplier is selected. Designed for staff either currently involved in quotation/tender evaluations or about to do so, participants will come away with practical skills applicable in the local government context. [More information.](#) [Register online.](#)

Supplier Tender Training

Sydney CBD – Tuesday 20 June 2017

The Supplier Tender Training module will teach you basic principles and best practice in tender writing for local government. Our experienced trainers will assist you to develop your skills and confidence in bid writing. [More information.](#) [Register online](#)

Local Government Procurement (LGP) offer a range of training from [eLearning](#), [one day procurement courses](#) to [procurement qualifications](#).

For further information; view the [LGP Training Calendar](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

Online information

[LGP Training website](#)

Registrations

[LGP Training Calendar](#)

Contact

LGP Training
02 8270 8709
training@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057 MB

Tourism

Item 20: Deadline Extended for Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund

The deadline has been extended (to 20 April) for expressions of interest for the new \$300 million Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund.

This first round of new infrastructure project funding of \$100 million is part of the Government's Rebuilding NSW initiative and is open to regional NSW councils and Aboriginal land councils.

The big winners will be tourism infrastructure projects which protect or enhance environmental assets (e.g. food and wine regions, national parks and heritage buildings). These projects should also show capacity for economic growth through increased visitation and job creation.

Expressions of interest should relate to projects of \$500,000 or more with partnerships and co-contributions encouraged.

The Department of Industry has made available webcast materials from 16 March 2017 to assist applicants.

The funding is separate to the \$110 million provided under the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and in addition to grants available through two existing funding streams:

- [Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program](#)
- [Regional Tourism Product Development Program](#)

Date

Expressions of interest due Thursday
20 April 2017

Online information

[Regional Growth - Environment and
Tourism Fund](#)

Contact

NSW Department of Industry

Email: tourism@insw.com

Address: Infrastructure NSW
Resources for Regions, PO Box R220
Royal Exchange NSW 1225

Ref: R90/0483 ER

Learning

Item 21: Professional Development for Councillors

LGNSW is offering training for councillors to enhance their skills.

Social Media

Sydney – 9 May 2017

Reaching and engaging with local and international audiences is invaluable in letting them know what councils do. Get started by attending our new Social Media Workshop. [More Information](#)

Know Your Planning

Sydney – 19 May 2017

Focusing on the current role of councillors in planning decisions, this workshop covers the wider strategic plan making issues, together with current practice such as community engagement, density, development and the consent process. [More Information](#)

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sydney – 2 June 2017

Addressing key aspects of the engagement process, this workshop draws on participant and presenter experience in areas such as corporate strategy, community development, service delivery and land use planning. [More Information](#)

Model Code of Conduct for Councillors

Sydney – 23 June 2017

Council officials play a vital role in serving local communities. To do this effectively, they need to uphold the highest standards of behaviour to ensure communities have trust and confidence in local government. This workshop will give participants a better understanding of the principles and processes in the Model Code. [More information](#)

Local Training

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

Online information and registration

[Upcoming courses](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 22: Courses to Develop New Thinking

LGNSW is offering a range of short courses to help managers and staff develop their thinking and political awareness during May and June.

Understanding Strategic Thinking (new program)

Sydney – Friday 12 May 2017

This practical, one-day workshop will introduce the concept of strategic thinking, explore the skills involved and consider how they can be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your organisation. The program includes a mix of presentations, case studies, individual exercises and group discussions.

It is suitable for senior staff, managers, strategists, HR professionals, mayors and councillors who see opportunities to get better results through new ways of working. [More information.](#)

Systems Thinking

Sydney – Thursday 1 June 2017

Discover how systems thinking allows for improvement at the organisational, departmental or team level, by focusing on understanding and anticipating the potential consequences of all actions. Some of the key questions explored are:

- What is a systems view and how does it contribute to organisational efficiency?
- Why is systems thinking fundamental to excellence models?
- What are the key elements for any council?
- How can systems thinking be used to amalgamate councils or drive collaboration within a joint organisation?

[More information](#)

Political Awareness

Sydney – Thursday 22 June 2017

Learn how to develop effective working relationships with elected representatives when formulating strategy and developing sustainable services for the community.

Designed for managers, coordinators and team leaders, the course content includes:

- Mapping the political terrain and identifying decision-making influences
- Identifying the black, white and grey of working at the political/managerial interface
- Boundary spanning – a framework for operating effectively in the grey area
- Developing a politically aware approach
- Innovative ways to develop political awareness in your council, yourself and your team.

[More information](#)

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

<http://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/upcoming-courses/>

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 23: Employment Law Seminar 2017 – Limited Seats Remaining

LGNSW's Employment Law Seminar (28 April, Sydney) is designed specifically for local government and is a must-attend event for general managers, industrial relations and human resource professionals.

The annual seminar brings together legal and industrial experts to discuss recent legislative changes and their implications for local government.

Seminar topics include:

- Changes to the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW
- Employment contracts – getting the basics right
- Unfair dismissal – procedural and substantive fairness explained through recent case examples
- Workplace behaviour – drawing the line
- Workplace culture – when does conduct outside work amount to misconduct?
- The rise of the gig economy – what are the legal implications for employers?
- Navigating the intersect between public interest disclosure management and employee management.

Speakers include:

- Chief Commissioner, Industrial Relations Commission of NSW
- Cilla Robinson, Clayton Utz
- Tim McDonald, Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers
- Michal Roucek and Lois Izzo, Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors
- Roland Hassall, Partner, Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- Helen Carter, PCC Lawyers.

See LGNSW's website for [more information and to register](#).

Date and Location

Friday 28 April 2017
Swissotel
68 Market Street, Sydney

Further information and registrations

[LGNSW Law Seminar](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$715 (incl. GST)
Non- members: \$1,430 (incl. GST)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
(02) 9242 4181
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 24: LGNSW Workshops

LGNSW is offering a range of workshops to local government professionals and elected members between now and June.

Workshops are provided at competitive rates and are specifically designed for the sector.

People and Performance

Sydney – Thursday 4 May 2017

Learn the art of communicating with different personality types to improve staff performance and motivation. [More information](#)

Social Media

Sydney – Tuesday 9 May 2017

Learn how to reach, inform, educate and engage with citizens using social media. [More information.](#)

Price Setting for Fees and Charges

Sydney - Tuesday 16 May 2017

Learn how to develop and apply effective price setting for significant outcome improvements. [More information](#)

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Thursday 18 May 2017

Develop a better understanding of the history of significant award provision and how to interpret the award and apply its provisions. [More information](#)

Know your Planning

Sydney - Friday 19 May 2017

Gain the latest information about planning legislation, policy and council practice to assist your decision-making as an elected member. [More information](#)

Business Excellence in Local Government

Sydney – Wednesday 24 May, Thursday 25 May & Friday 26 May 2017

Understand how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability. [More information](#)

Local Training

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

[LGNSW Learning Calendar \(January-June 2017\)](#)

Registrations

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 25: ALGA Newsletter

[View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.](#)